

# Q4 2023 Quarterly Market Commentary

***“Games are won by players who focus on playing the field – not by those whose eyes are glued to the scoreboard.” – Warren Buffett***



## ***Navigating Market Fluctuations with a Strategic Portfolio Approach***

The stock market ended 2023 with one of the best 4th quarters on record. The S&P 500 returned 11.68 percent during the quarter and closed out the year with a return of over 26 percent. However, despite fantastic returns, better than expected economic growth, slowing inflation, and a resilient labor market, among many other positives, why did the year not really feel all that great? It is my opinion that the reason for this can be tied to the media. If you found yourself glued to the daily news cycle than you were peppered with reminders that interest rates have increased dramatically, credit card debt was becoming unsustainable, there was a war in Israel, there was a war in Ukraine, and the economy was on the brink of a recession. Depending on your perspective things either looked really good or they looked really bad. How do we come to grips with these competing views and how should we think about markets moving forward? More specifically, what does this mean for you and your portfolio?

Just as competing views come in and out of favor, just as emotions ebb and flow, just as peace and prosperity can turn into war and geopolitical chaos, the same can be said about investment markets. There are periods when stocks do well and periods when stocks don't do well. Breaking this down further, there are periods when US stocks do well and periods when international stocks do well. This exercise holds true no matter how you slice and dice the various asset classes that we invest in here at Patterson Andrews Wealth Management. The key solution to grapple with all these dynamics lies in having a diversified portfolio. By having exposure to every asset class, it allows us to participate in the upside of every market when they have their time in the sun, but it also allows us to reduce the overall risk in the portfolio when a particular asset class is going through a rough patch. This combination of asset classes acts like a shield protecting your wealth and is something that we have a keen focus on as fiduciaries and stewards of your capital.

### **Our Commitment to You**

At Patterson Andrews Wealth Management we have taken on the responsibility to worry about these things on your behalf so that you can have the freedom and financial peace of mind to focus on the things that truly matter to you. So, the next time you hear about the next calamity facing the world you can find some solace in the fact that you have a dedicated team of professionals that are working every day to make sure that you and your families are going to be ok. We carry this responsibility like a badge of honor, and we will be there with you every step of the way on your financial journey.

Regards,



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